

**STEREOMICROSCOPE****CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

[0001] The present application is the U.S. National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP2003/013403 filed November 28, 2003, which claims priority of German Application No. 102 55 965.1 filed November 29, 2002.

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

[0002] The invention concerns a stereomicroscope for magnifying an object by means of at least one zoom through which, in the operating state, an object beam emitted from the object is directed.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0003] A stereomicroscope of this kind is known, for example, from EP-A2-1 120 676 and from US-A-5 822 114. For better comprehension of this cited existing art, the reader is referred to Fig. 2 of EP-A2-1 120 676, which comprises in large part arrangements similar to those in FIG. 1 of the present invention. The reference numbers of EP-A2-1 120 676 have been largely carried over to the description of the present FIG. 1 and the Parts List, so that one skilled in the art can easily recognize the known assemblage as well as differences with respect to the present invention.

[0004] In the design of stereomicroscopes, it is generally desirable to keep the overall height as low as possible, on the one hand in order to minimize the eye-object distance (i.e. the distance between the observer's eye and the object being viewed), and on the other hand to achieve – in the event the stereomicroscope is used as a surgical microscope – the smallest and most compact design possible, which is also intended to have a favorable effect on moving masses.

[0005] In normal operation of a conventional stereomicroscope that is not in a pivoted position, the beam paths that pass through the main objective and the zoom are arranged approximately vertically.